Users of Internet/E-Mail in the Country

1331. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of internet and E-mail users in the country, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more people to use this electronic system in the country; and

(c) what steps are being undertaken to provide computer education from the grass root levels?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Total number of internet subscribers in India as on 30.6.2000 is 1,407,736. State-wise break-up is given below. Many of the subscribers are organisations and as such the number of persons actually using internet & e-mail service are significantly larger.

Sl.No.	Name of Circle/State	No. wkg connections
1.	Andhra Pradesh Circle	63,902
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	133
3.	Assam Circle	4,064
4.	Bihar Circle	8,021
5.	Delhi	226,587
6.	Gujarat Circle	55,319
7.	Haryana Circle	1,675
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,070
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,823
10.	Karnataka Circle	139,370
11.	Kerala Circle	27,606
12.	Maharashtra Circle	452,948
13.	Madhya Pradesh Circle	22,981
14.	North East Circle	902

S.No.	Name of Circle/State	No. wkg connections
15.	Orrisa Circle	4,256
16.	Punjab Circle	28,652
17.	Rajasthan Circle	19,815
18.	Tamil Nadu Circle	214,178
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	15,405
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4,819
21.	West Bengal Circle	114,221
	Total	1,407,736

(b) Some of the steps taken for growth of internet in the country are:

* Access to Internet on local call basis from the nearest internet Node has been provided to all the Districts Head quarters in the country except Distt. Kargil & Poonch in J&K State.

* Department of Telecom Services (DTS) is setting up a National Internet Backbone (NIB). To start with, it will have 45 nodes and will be progressively extended to cover all the 322 Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) by December 2000.

* 315 licenses have been issued to private ISPs by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) since announcement of Internet Policy in Nov. 1998 and 80 ISps have already started providing Internet Services.

* 20% concessions on rental for leased lines for Internet access is being given by DTS at present.

* Students are being given a one time concessions on TCP/IP account by DTS at present.

(c) Government has taken several steps to provide computer education from the grass root levels. These include: Setting up of Smart schools; IT education through DOEACC Scheme; Promotion of web-based education; IT training through Employment Generation Training Scheme; Increasing the input of students in IITs and Regional Engineering College (RECs) and improving the quality of IT education in engineering institutes.